

Listing of claims:

The following is a complete listing of all claims in the application,
with an indication of the status of each:

1-24 (Canceled).

- 1 25. (Currently Amended) A vessel agitator, comprising:
2 a plurality of vessel holders, each of said plurality of vessel
3 holders constructed and arranged for removably holding a vessel;
4 a vessel conveyor constructed and arranged to move that
5 ~~moves~~ said plurality of vessel holders along a path having at least one
6 substantially linear section; and
7 a vessel contact agitator constructed and arranged such that
8 when a vessel is held by at least one of said plurality of vessel holders,
9 and is conveyed by said vessel conveyor along said path, said vessel
10 contact agitator contacts said vessel at a plurality of contact locations
11 along said path in a manner that displaces said vessel at each contact
12 location in a direction perpendicular to the direction of the path at that
13 contact location, wherein
14 said vessel conveyor is constructed and arranged to move said
15 at least one vessel holder such that said vessel contacts at least one of
16 said plurality of contact locations of said vessel contact agitator a
17 selectable number of times.

- 1 26. (Currently Amended) The vessel agitator of claim 25 wherein the
2 vessel contact agitator includes a plurality of at least three projections,
3 each located at a corresponding one of said contact locations, and a
4 includes a plurality of at least three troughs, each located at a
5 corresponding one of said contact locations, said projections and
6 troughs being constructed and arranged such that each of said

7 projections displaces said vessel in a first direction perpendicular to the
8 path at the projection's location of projection, and such that each of
9 said troughs displaces said vessel in a direction perpendicular to the
10 path at the trough's location, and substantially opposite to the direction
11 that projections adjacent to the trough displace said vessel.

1 27. (Previously Presented) The vessel agitator of claim 26 wherein the
2 spacing differs between different adjacent ones of said projection
3 locations.

1 28. (Previously Presented) The vessel agitator of claim 26 wherein the
2 spacing differs between different adjacent ones of said trough
3 locations.

1 29. (Previously Presented) The vessel agitator of claim 26 wherein the
2 spacing is the same between different adjacent ones of said projection
3 locations, such that the vessel is agitated in a periodic manner while
4 being conveyed.

1 30. (Previously Presented) The vessel agitator of claim 25, wherein
2 said vessel conveyor comprises a first rotatable wheel, a second
3 rotatable wheel, and an endless belt engaged with said first rotatable
4 wheel and second rotatable wheel, wherein said vessel holders are
5 attached to said endless belt.

1 31. (New) The vessel agitator of claim 25, wherein said conveyor is
2 constructed and arranged such that said vessel travels in the same
3 direction each time it contacts said at least one of said plurality of
4 contact locations of said vessel contact agitator.

- 1 32. (New) The vessel agitator of claim 25, wherein said conveyor is
2 constructed and arranged to be moving said vessel in a first direction
3 along said path when it makes a first contact with said at least one of
4 said plurality of contact locations and be moving said vessel in a
5 direction opposite said first direction second when it makes a
6 subsequent contact with said at least one of said plurality of contact
7 locations.
- 1 33. (New) The vessel agitator of claim 25, wherein at least one of said
2 vessel holders is a U-shaped structure.
- 1 34. (New) The vessel agitator of claim 31, wherein at least one of said
2 vessel holders is a U-shaped structure.
- 1 35. (New) The vessel agitator of claim 32, wherein at least one of said
2 vessel holders is a U-shaped structure.